



Dear friends in Christ,

We need Easter this year.

I called a friend and colleague to chat - but really to ask her to consider taking on a piece of work. She began by lamenting all of the losses she had faced with her congregation and in her own life this past year. Then, she turned to the state of the world - in other words, the conversation grew darker. Then, she turned to the weather and the third winter storm in the last few days. Basically, it was a pretty grim conversation to say the least.

As I think about this year at St. Paul's, it is challenging not to focus on the hard things that have happened since last Easter. There has been a lot of grief and many hardships. For some, there is a sense of free floating anxiety covering the world. These things make it seem like Good Friday.

Going back to my conversation, I was disappointed because I had convinced myself she would say no. My mind shifted to who else I could ask for help.

Then I caught a glimpse of the light of Easter. She said yes! In spite of everything going on in her life she saw that this work might bring light and hope into the lives of others.

On Easter morning, the women who gathered at the tomb needed help to roll away the stone. It came from an unexpected place and when the stone was moved light flooded into the dark tomb and what emerged was the hope and reality of the resurrection.

As I look out the window, the landscape resembles the state of many of our lives – it is as if we are entombed in ice and snow. Yet, we know that under that cover there is new life about to spring forward. A new day is coming. The daylight is lasting longer and it feels warmer. We know the snow banks will give way to new life.

The promise of the resurrection is always with us. For we are a people who know that following the hardship of Good Friday comes the hope of Easter. We also recognize that sometimes we need to experience the darkness in order to see new light and renewed hope.

We know that the hand of God is at work bring hope to the world:

As we listen to the calm voice of someone bearing a heavy cross;

As we watch someone comforting another with a hug;

As we see someone dare to dream and hold on to a vision for something better;

As we hear people singing God's praises;

As we experience excited children throw socks at their ministers.

For, there are always people reaching out with comfort, strength and joy to help make real the presence of the Risen Christ a reality in our own lives and in the world.

May we all experience the hope and the promise of new life that comes with Easter for Christ is risen, Hallelujah! Christ is risen, indeed, Hallelujah!

Wendy, Brenda, Jeremy, Andy and I along with our families join together to wish you and yours a blessed and joyous Easter

Steve



404 Cleveland Avenue
Riverview, NB E1B 1Y2
Phone: 386-3335 E-mail: stpaulsunited@nb.aibn.com
Church Website: www.stpaulsriverview.org

Spring Newsletter

Easter 2018

Worship Services

March 30, 2018 @ 11m

Good Friday Service will be held at St. Paul's United with Trinity United Church joining us for this service. All are welcome to attend.

April 1, 2018 @ 10 am - Easter Sunday
Sacrament of Communion

April 29, 2018- Sacrament of Baptism. If you wish to have your child baptized please call the office at 386-3335.

NEXT RECYCLING DAYS

APRIL 7, MAY 5 & JUNE 2 (9 - 11 am)

A **BIG thank you** to St. Paul's congregation for supporting this project and reducing waste and protecting our environment. **A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to the men and women who help with Recycling Days. The funds from this program go toward \$500 bursaries for our students furthering their education and the balance towards church expenses.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT PAR? We now have 113 families who donate to St. Paul's by using our convenient Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) system. Those who use this approach to giving find it not only trouble free but very much to their liking. You decide what amount you would like to donate to your church and the payment comes out once a month from your bank account (usually around the 20th of each month). You can give to all one donation or designate to the following funds: **Local** (covers hydro, telephone, heating, church insurance, etc. of the church), **Mission & Service** (all

donations are sent to The United Church of Canada for outreach programs around the world) or the **Building Fund** (which helps to pay our Capital Mortgage Payment.) For more information about PAR please call Wendy Marney at our church office at 386-3335 and she will be happy to answer your queries.

STUDENT BURSARIES ~ Application forms are available at the church office for the Ron Marney Memorial Recycling Bursary.

Application must be received June 2, 2018, addressed to Chair, Student Bursaries, St. Paul's United Church, 404 Cleveland Ave.

Ruth Monteith Memorial Bursary Thanks to the generous support of the family, we are pleased to announce the offer of a \$500 bursary, to be awarded annually. The terms & conditions are similar to those listed above. We wish to express our thanks & gratitude to Ruth's family for this wonderful & appropriate tribute to Ruth. **Applications available through the church office. Deadline June 2, 2018.**

The U.C.W. Annual Yard Sale will be held on **APRIL 28 from 8AM till 12PM**. This yard sale is a success because of the contributions from our congregation. This year will be no different I'm sure. Anyone doing spring cleaning and find treasures they no longer need or have room for, please pass them on to us. No LARGE items please. Items can be dropped off anytime after the 22nd of April in the hall. If anyone has any questions or need help you can call Phyllis Head 386-3066.



Each year, at the annual meeting of the Maritime Conference of the United

Church, there are two amazing events organized for youth. For people in Grades 7-9, there is Intermediates at Conference (IAC). For people aged 15-19, there is Youth Forum (YF). Both of these programs have a strong reputation in the United Church and are the highlight of the year for many youth.

The cost for youth to register for one of these programs is \$275, which includes their room, meals, and high-quality programming (and a t-shirt!) from Thursday afternoon until Sunday morning (May 24-27). Usually, Chignecto Presbytery (the regional grouping of churches of which St. Paul's is a part) has paid 1/3 of the cost for each registered youth, and St. Paul's has paid 1/3.

The total cost to the youth registering is, therefore, \$92. For those at St. Paul's for whom this would be prohibitive, there is also funding available to cover part or all of this cost for those who want to go. To register, please go to marconf.ca and click on the appropriate registration under the "Annual Meeting" drop-down tab.

ST. PAUL'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

May 12, 8am-11am - Gourmet Pancakes, Real Maple Syrup, Eggs, Baked Beans, Sausage, Hash Browns, and Beverage. **Free Will Offering.**

ST. PAUL'S NOVICE ROAD RALLY 2018 Date: Saturday, June 2

GOALS: Introduce you to rallying and having fun with lots of laughs. This was such a hit last year and enjoyed by everyone who took part. Come and join the fun...you won't regret it!

Registration: St. Paul's Church Hall at 1 pm

1:30 pm – Introduction & instruction to rallying

2:00 pm – Departure from St. Paul's Parking Lot

Duration: Approximately 3 hours; average speed, less than 50 km per hour.

Completion Time: Approximately 5 – 5:30 pm

Location: Moncton Golf Club.

Maximum – 20 Cars (2 - 4 persons) per auto.

Entrance Fee - \$10 per auto

Dinner: - Additional Cost with selected menu

Trophy Awarded to First Place Team

FINISH – Moncton Golf & Country

GO Project: Kids - Are you looking for a summer experience for your children where they can learn more about their community, how to help others, and have fun while doing it? Are you a young adult with experience working with young children, or an adult interested in helping us with a day camp experience for children? Building on its 20 years of success with social justice camps for teens, the GO Project will be helping St. Paul's coordinate a week-long day camp for children (Grades 2-7) **July 3 – July 6. The cost per child \$100 for 4 days, (LUNCH NOT INCLUDED) snacks will be provided & subsidies available through the St. Paul's Spiritual Growth & Development Fund.** If you're interested in having your child attend, or helping out, contact the office (386-3335).

EASTER POEM - Joyce Rupp

Sturdy, deep green tulip shoots.

How did they know
it was time to push up through the long-wintered soil?

How did they know
it was the moment to resurrect,
while thick layers of stubborn ice
still pressed the bleak ground flat?

But the tulips knew.

They came, rising strongly,
a day after the ice died.

There's a hope-filled place in me
that also knows when to rise,
that waits for the last layer of ice
to melt into obscurity.

It is urged by the strong sun
warming my wintered heart.
It is nudged by the Secret One,
calling, calling, calling:
"Arise, my love, and come."

My heart stirs like dormant tulips
and hope comes dancing forth.

Not unlike the Holy One
kissing the morning sun,
waving a final farewell
to a tomb emptied of its treasure.